

Testimony in Support of HB 1608
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Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce
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On behalf of my member organizations, I'd like to extend our Chamber's strong support for HB 1608, "The Telecommunications Market Competition Act."

Continued innovation in new technologies is essential for growing our state's economy and supporting efficiencies within the business community. Thanks to our vibrant mobile ecosystem, companies today are operating in ways that were simply unimaginable back when Pennsylvania's communications laws were put in place. Before iPhones and the Internet, businesses relied on rotary telephones and snail mail to communicate with their customers. Thankfully, those days are long gone.

To ensure innovation and investment in new communications products and services continues, the regulatory environment must be modernized to ensure telecommunications companies can effectively compete with non-regulated providers.

Each year, telecommunications companies spend millions of dollars complying without dated rules that no longer make sense in today's environment, while their competitors remain free from such regulation. This is money that could be better spent expanding broadband and wireless networks or developing the next new "revolutionary product" that will change the way we communicate (yet again).

The Legislature has worked hard over the last two years to enhance the business climate and make it easier for local businesses to grow and thrive. But, there is still more work to be done.

HB 1608 is the next logical step in an ongoing progression to make our local communities stronger and maintain Pennsylvania's reputation for being one of the best places in the country to live and work. Outdated regulations impede future investment and send the wrong messages for companies looking to operate or expand here. Please remedy this problem and move HB 1608 forward.

Thank you for considering the views of the Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce's members. We sincerely appreciate all you are doing to better our great state.